

fact sheet



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Recycle Iowa's Organics

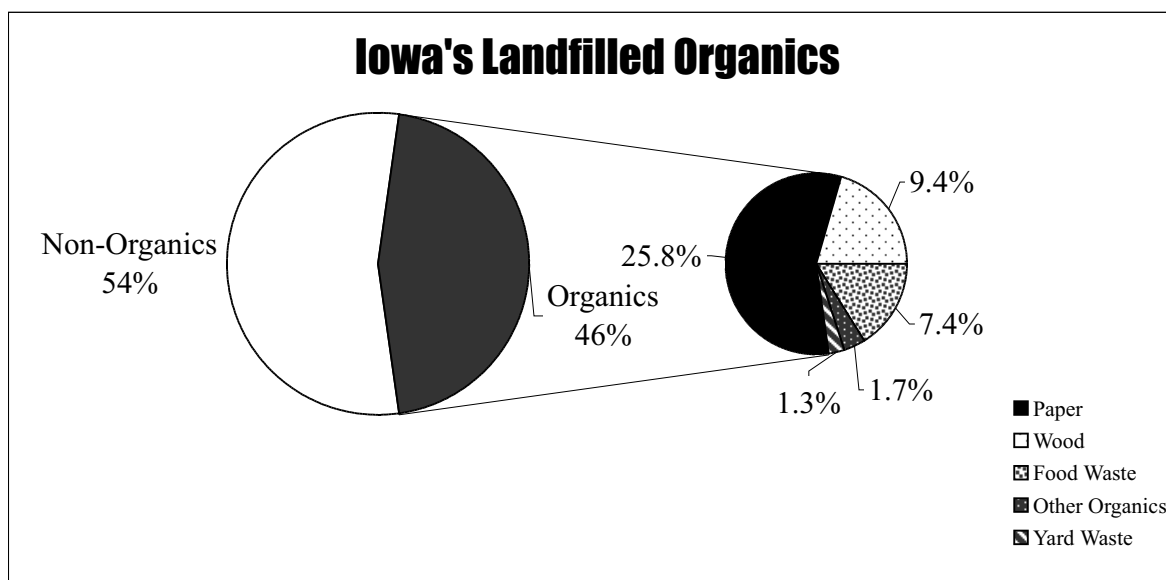
Organics? What are those?

Organics refers to those materials of animal or vegetable origin, including:

- ♻ Food Waste (e.g., breads, eggshells, vegetables and fruits)
- ♻ Yard Waste (e.g., grass clippings, tree limbs; banned from Iowa landfills in 1991)
- ♻ Wood Waste (e.g., pallets, shipping crates, construction and demolition debris)
- ♻ Paper Products (e.g., cardboard and newspaper)
- ♻ Manure

In the average Iowa landfill, what percentage of the solid waste are organics?

Forty-six percent of landfilled materials is organic – about 1.1 million tons annually (including all paper).



Why recycle organics?

Iowa is still working toward a 50 percent statewide diversion goal, and with 46 percent of the landfilled materials being organic, concentrating on reducing organics in the landfills will help to achieve this goal and beyond.

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What types of organic recycling opportunities are there?

The options are many:

Food Banks/Organizations (Edible Products)

Much of the food that has expired its shelf life is still completely edible and can be donated to food banks for people in need.

Animal Feed Producers

Offering by-products for use as animal feed is an economical and environmentally sound way for food processors to reduce waste discharges and cut waste management costs.

Some examples of materials that can be used for feed include bakery meal, fat, snack food waste, soft drink syrup, and vegetable and fruit processing waste.

Ethanol

Can be produced from almost any raw material containing sugar or carbohydrates, including food and beverage wastes, paper sludge, yard clippings, and corn.

According to the EPA, the use of ethanol-blended fuels can reduce CO₂ emissions from vehicle exhaust by as much as 30 percent.

Reduces America's dependence on imported fuels by nearly 100,000 barrels daily.

Animal Rendering

Yes, rendering is recycling. Reprocessed, discarded animal material is transformed into highly beneficial products.

Tallow, grease, and protein meals from rendering create secondary products (e.g., cosmetics, lubricants, paints, deodorants, and polishes).

Composting/Vermicomposting/Mulching

Compost has the unique ability to improve the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of soil or growing media.

Compost can reduce the occurrence of some plant diseases.

Compost can utilize almost any type of organic waste.

There are about 68 public and private composting facilities in Iowa (as of June 30, 2000).

Land Applications

Among the materials most often used are manure and yard waste.

Allows for quick dispersal and decomposition of waste material.

For more composting information, click on the Waste Management Assistance Division Web site at www.iowadnr.wmad.org. For information on facilities accepting organics check the Iowa Recycling Directory at www.iowarecyclingdirectory.org.

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